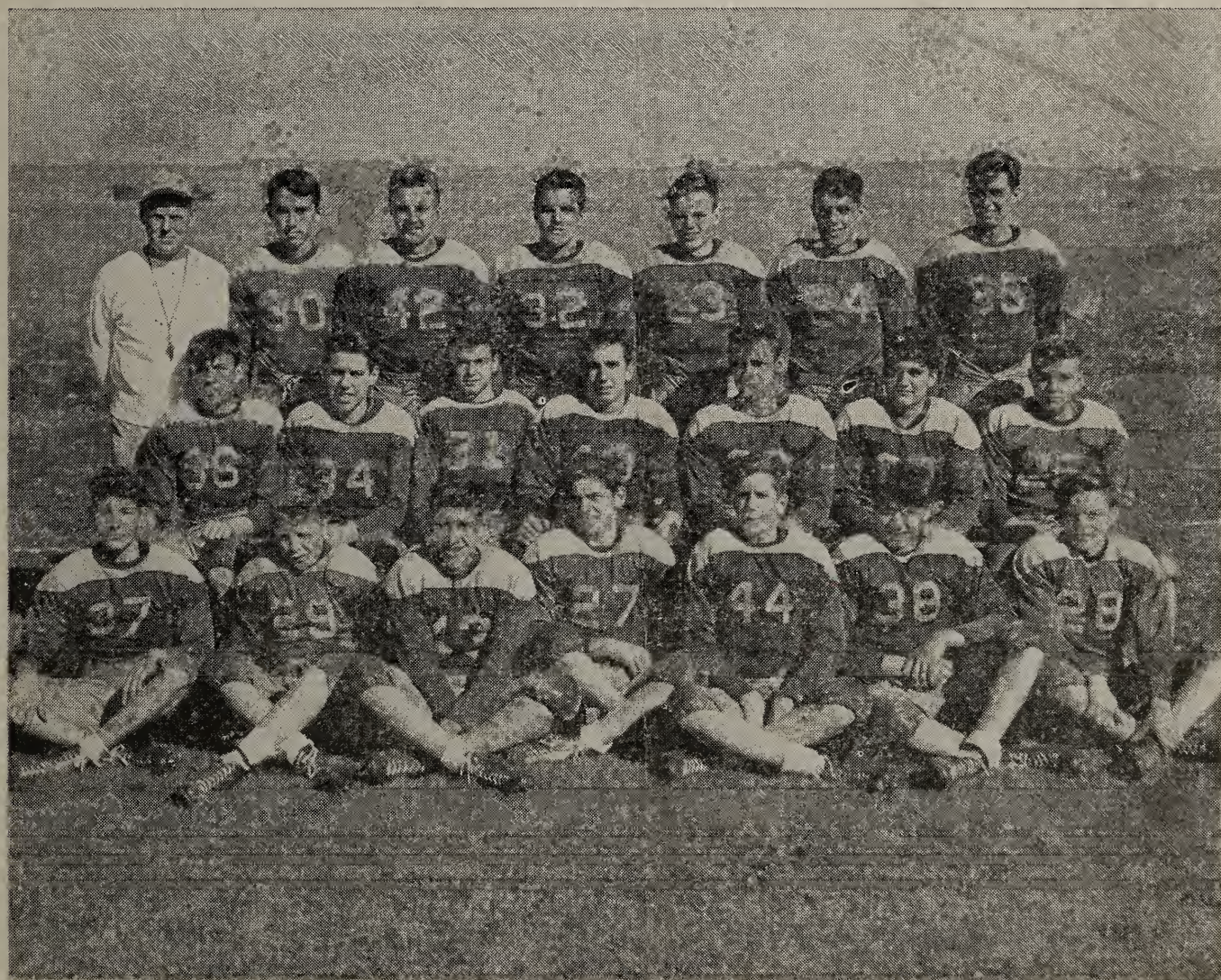




THOMPSON'S ISLAND
BEACON

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Varsity Football Squad 1947

Back row, left to right: Coach Raymond Thomas, Robert E. Lucien, Harold D. Lowery, Jr., Richard E. McPhee, J. Sheridan Higgins, Stephen J. Zevitas, Ernest L. Parsons. Middle row: Robert H. Hatch, Ralph L. Gale, William T. Warfield, Paul W. Horton, Howard E. Jennison, James L. Angelos, Burleigh M. Pratt. Front Row: Ramsey G. Porter, Robert T. Fawcett, James B. Ward, Vaughn A. Best, Robert M. Davenport, Walter C. Roberts, Kenneth W. Duquet.

The Eddie Lyons Show

Mr. Eddie Lyons, who has been active in vaudeville for many years, and is now a promoter of entertainments read an account of our School in the Boston Traveler and immediately decided that he would like to come to Thompson's Island and give one of his shows. Plans were made and we looked forward to a variety performance.

However, none of us had any idea whatever that we were to witness a truly great show, given by more than twenty performers and each a master in his or her field. It would be difficult to contemplate a pleasanter evening. There were excellent musical numbers, top-notch acrobatic and dancing acts, and novelty acts fused into an evening of entertainment second to none.

Mr. Lyons introduced each of the performers and kept the show moving at a rapid pace. We certainly thank him and each member of his grand company for coming to us with a truly first-rate entertainment.

Honor Roll — Winter Term

The highest academic averages in each class group

Junior Class

William T. Warfield
Harold D. Lowery, Jr.

Sophomore Class

S. Brooks Whiting
Richard E. McPhee

Freshman Class

Howard E. Jennison
William E. Kellaway
Nelson W. Stearns
Ernest L. Parsons

Eighth Grade Division A

Richard G. Burton
Vernon R. Lincoln

Eighth Grade Division B

Edwin W. Gray
David B. Furbish

Seventh Grade

George H. Tangen
Eldon J. Lundin
Lewis A. Hester

Sixth Grade

Joseph B. Mason
Donald E. Richardson

Best Citizenship

The highest in each class group

Junior Class

Harold D. Lowery, Jr.
Stephen J. Zevitas

Sophomore Class

Richard E. McPhee
Robert H. Hatch

Freshman Class

Ernest L. Parsons
Walter C. Roberts

Eighth Grade Division A

Theodore L. Jones
David W. Simmons, Jr.

Eighth Grade Division B

Ralph L. Gale
John W. Badger

Seventh Grade

Lewis A. Hester
Eldon J. Lundin

Sixth Grade

Donald E. Richardson
Donald R. Morrell

Dancing Classes

Through the kindness, interest and cooperation of Miss Helen M. Gresty, who is a director of Religious Education, our boys have been given a series of six

weekly dancing lessons. To assist in the teaching, Miss Gresty brought a group of girls from her church clubs and Sunday School classes. The young people thoroughly enjoyed the dancing periods and the progress made week after week was a tribute to Miss Gresty's excellent teaching. The fun and pleasure which the boys and girls received from the lessons was always evident. We thank Miss Gresty for the fine job she did.

On each weekly trip Miss Gresty brought parents and friends of the girls with her, and it was a pleasure to become acquainted and make friends with these folks from Lynn and other north shore communities.

The Freedom Train

At a recent assembly the members of the seventh grade gave a program based on the great Freedom Train. As we know the idea for the Freedom Train began with a little suggestion and it grew until it developed into one of the major achievements of the year.

Each of the boys in the class described some part of the rich heritages which are aboard the Freedom Train. The struggle by mankind for freedom was thus told, and included in the telling were descriptions of such noted documents as the Magna Charter, Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg address and other historical milestones loved and revered with a fierce patriotism by free Americans.

Music for the program was given by a band composed of seventh graders. The group played patriotic selections.

Every boy in the grade had a part in the presentation of the "Freedom Train" and they all deserve much praise for a really outstanding performance.

Entertainments

Life at The Farm and Trades School is much like home as far as entertainments go. Of course it is much like home in other ways, too, but I choose to write about entertainments.

This is a big island and we can always find something to do especially on Saturdays and Sundays when we don't have classes. There are the athletic teams which play on weekends and about everyone is on one of the teams.

On Saturday night we have a movie show which we always enjoy. Then every so often Mr. Meacham arranges to have people come from Boston to give programs. We recently had a show by Mal Cameron, magician, and another called simply the "Eddie Lyons Show".

We can always find some way to entertain ourselves. If all the sports, hobbies, and programs were written down it would fill a whole page.

Eldon J. Lundin

Greetings, Mr. Swasey

Mr. Paul F. Swasey, who was superintendent of the School from 1922-1926 has sent holiday greetings to us together with a substantial check for our Memorial Chapel fund.

Mr. Swasey writes that he wishes that he lived nearer Boston so that he might keep in closer contact with his F. T. S. friends. He teaches at the University of Richmond and operates a 189 acre farm fourteen miles from Richmond. He raises corn, soy beans, wheat, pigs and chickens.

Should any friends of Mr. and Mrs. Swasey be in the vicinity of Richmond they have a cordial invitation to visit. The telephone number is King William 2412. The mail address is Spring Green, Tunstall, Virginia.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

BURLEIGH M. PRATT - - - - - *Editor*

Vol. 51 No. 8 December 1947

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Invariably every problem has so many angles to it that the solution depends upon a combination of factors. A problem may be as simple as arithmetic where two and two make four or it may depend upon half a dozen algebraic principles which accurately applied can produce 100% perfection.

Most life problems depend upon a combination of definite, fixed rules called constants and a series of changeable factors called variables. Most, perhaps all, of the parts to any life problem can be reduced to definite rules, reasons and factors which if properly applied can give us the answer. However, what may seem true to-day might easily change by tomorrow so that another set of calculations would be required to re-solve the same problem.

For example, one person might say "Juvenile Delinquency would be completely solved and eliminated if you would see to it that every home is proper and adequate or enroll the boys and girls in a school like F.T.S." That may be a pretty true statement but there are a lot of angles to it and it doesn't look as though this result would be attained in the immediate future.

The other day we asked a man high up in the oil industry, "Why are the papers saying so much about oil shortage? What is the cause? Will we be really short this winter?" Our friend was very frank, to the point, and in about ten minutes gave us a clear-cut picture of the situation. He said we are short and we will be shorter this winter. Gasoline may be limited to the extent of keeping pleasure cars curtailed in operation some of the time. Fuel oil will probably be adequate to keep us from suffering and we would hardly be even inconvenienced if we would keep our home and other oil-heated areas to reasonable temperatures.

On the question of, "Why the shortage?," this expert in the trade mentioned

several reasons. The greatest reason is the unprecedented demand for fuel oil. Second is a combination of factors such as transportation equipment, refinery equipment and lower production of crude oil, all dependent on available labor. Oil being shipped to Europe is a minor factor and oil going to Canada is "only a drop in the bucket."

The oil situation is illustrative of the process of analysis into the various factors and points the way to its solution. However, its complete solution depends upon the application of the known factors. We can solve it reasonably well, perhaps completely, but a good many million people will have to cooperate. Complete solution to this and many other complex problems could, perhaps, be rather easily worked out but there are, unfortunately, too many millions of us who frown upon any act or move which inconveniences us or restricts our own personal desires. The world always was that way and probably will continue to be thus self-centered in spite of all teachings toward unselfishness.

Topics in Brief

More than 200 visitors who were here to watch the Weymouth freshman team and our boys play football remained at the school until about 10:00 P. M. for at the conclusion of the game the weather would in no case permit safe crossing. Inasmuch as the visitors were parents and friends of the boys the forced wait was accepted in great spirit and everyone made themselves at home in the warmth and comfort of our dormitories. Our kitchen staff served supper to the group quickly and efficiently. We appreciate the compliments heaped upon us by the visitors and substantial cash gift they, unknowingly to us, collected and presented to the School.

The football season ended gloriously for our team on November 8 when our boys had no trouble defeating the Weymouth H. S. freshmen. On the preceding Saturday our team defeated the Braintree H. S. freshmen 7-6. We are indeed proud of the record our boys made this year in winning seven games while losing none. We also take this occasion to thank all of the newspaper and radio sports reporters for the steady stream of fine articles and comments which our boys received.

Armistice Day was observed as a full holiday and the boys made good use of the time in furthering their many hobbies. Teams in the Crosby League played football games and there was an educational moving picture program in the evening.

Thanksgiving was, as usual, a season to be long remembered by those of us privileged to be at Thompson's Island. The traditional bountiful dinner of roast turkey with all the fixings was served and two football games enjoyed. In the evening a moving picture show climaxed a day of much happiness. The true meaning of the day was not lost however, and all of us had occasion to recall our great and numerous blessings. The excellent proclamation by Governor Bradford was read preceding the Thanksgiving Dinner by Paul Horton after which many of us enjoyed hearing the Governor deliver the message personally on a radio broadcast.

Ernest Hill, a photographer for the Boston Traveler, was here during the month and made a number of pictures of school activities. Many of the pictures appeared in the newspaper. He presented us with a set of enlargements and also the negatives. We thank Mr. Hill for his kindness.

Repairs and adjustments as needed have been made on the PILGRIM III so that our school boat is now in first-class shape for a winter of service. The necessary work was done under the supervision of John Goodhue, '21, a member of our Board of Trustees. Mr. Goodhue has earned a high reputation as an expert on all types of boat construction and marine engine maintenance.

Construction work has been accomplished during the late fall in constructing a six lane track on the west side of our athletic field. This will enable us to run off track meets in a much more satisfactory way than heretofore.

The farm boys have been busy clearing dead timber from the Bowditch Grove and cleaning up the other woodlots as time allowed. The wood has been cut in fire-place lengths for use in the dormitories.

Captain Frank L. Warren has been conducting rehearsals of the school band weekly and the boys have learned to play many fine overtures and selections as well a number of military marches.

Our paint shop department has been busy putting wire screens over the windows of some of the farm buildings. Also work has progressed on a new two room apartment so that it is almost ready for use.

The boys in the woodworking shop have been repairing and painting the chairs which are used in our band hall. The shop crews have also done many other jobs too numerous to mention.

In anticipation of basketball, our gymnasium has had minor repairs, the floor refinished and the lines for the court repainted. The basketball court will be in

continual use for the next few months as practically all of our boys play this grand game on an organized team.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, October 1857

As kept by the Superintendent

5. A lovely day. Seven painters here to-day.

18. George Bemis, Esq., visited us to-day and addressed the boys in A. M. & P. M.

20. Today has been the last visiting day of the season.

22. John R. Morse, junior teacher, went to the city to visit the Fair.

November 1857

4. Have completed harvesting my late turnips.

17. The schooner, Young America, came to exchange a piano.

23. Went to the city with the boat. Got fowls, etc., for Thanksgiving.

26. This has been a lively day here. Three footballs kept the children stirring—and all appeared to enjoy the day much. Present of the graduates, 13.

Varsity Football 1947

September 27. Milton H. S. Sophs 7, F. T. S. 19.

October 4. Milton Acad. 2nds 13, F. T. S. 25.

October 11. Cohasset H. S. 2, F. T. S. 7.

October 18. Hingham J. V. 7, F. T. S. 12.

October 25. Kingston H. S. 12, F. T. S. 19.

November 1. Braintree H. S. Fresh 6, F. T. S. 7.

November 8. Weymouth Fresh 0, F. T. S. 32.

Prizes

On Thursday December 11 the Shaw Prizes and the Temple Consolation Prizes were awarded. Twenty-five dollars was distributed in awards to the boys with the best records on the merit charts. Books were given to the next five, these prizes being the gift of Mr. N. Penrose Hallowell in memory of Mr. Thomas F. Temple, who began the custom of giving the consolation prizes. Honorable mention was accorded the next five in rank.

As each prize was presented Mr. Meacham stated the number of times that the recipient had previously won. Some have made an impressive record, being often on the prize list.

Those receiving the Shaw prizes for the period June 1 to Dec. 1, 1947 were:

- 1st Richard E. McPhee
- 2nd Theodore L. Jones
Harold D. Lowery (tie)
- 4th J. Sheridan Higgins
Ernest L. Parsons
Stephen J. Zevitas (tie)
- 7th Samuel B. Whiting
- 8th Robert E. Lucien
- 9th Paul W. Horton
Howard E. Jennison (tie)
- Temple Consolation (Books)
- 11th William T. Warfield
- 12th Richard G. Burton
- 13th Nelson W. Stearns
Hans M. Christensen (tie)

Honorable Mention

- 15th Robert M. Davenport
- 16th James L. Angelos
Walter C. Roberts
Malcolm C. Wiley (tie)
- 19th John W. Badger

Football Victory Banquet

One of the most satisfying activities which the Alumni Association has promoted was the football victory banquet,

held at Patten's Restaurant, on December 4. Words seem all but empty as any attempt is made to describe the warm feeling of the great reunion which took place in honoring the gallant 1947 football squad. Truly we are a large family, and here was a reunion of that family bringing together young and old in what was the most enthusiastic and happy gathering of our people within memory.

It would be better not to single out any few to receive credit for this heart-warming party. In truth, a great many had a hand in the programming and organization of the banquet. We do feel, however, that special mention should be made that our guests, Messrs. Fred Foye, Ernest Dalton, Anthony Notagiacomo, Roger Walsh, George Collins and Leonard Avery all deserve our profuse thanks for giving of their time and helping make the gathering an inspiring success.

Ivers E. Winmill, '23 was toastmaster and kept the proceedings moving at a fast pace. The first speaker was Roger Walsh who told of the experiences of being referee for the first game on the island in modern times. He recalled that the first game was played on the old field and compared playing conditions on that field with the grand gridiron we now have. Leonard Avery, former Holy Cross and All-America star entertained with football yarns.

Anthony Notagiacomo of the Boston Garden has long been interested in our school and often officiates at our contests. In his remarks he paid especial compliments to all the players at the island football games for the excellent sportsmanship shown. Here it is well to add that in any games at the School there has never been a player dispute with any official. Each participating team really enjoyed every game and the sport has been a good-will booster for all the schools concerned.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

SAMUEL L. WHITEHEAD, '23, President
Wakefield, Mass.

HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

CLIFTON E. ALBEE, '21, Secretary
Thompsons' Island
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

Fred Foye, who visited the School in October and which visit resulted in an extremely fine feature story in the Boston Traveler, of which paper he is schoolboy sports editor, then spoke. Mr. Foye told of his visit, his impression of F. T. S. and how his curiosity regarding Thompson's Island was allayed. He presented us with photographs and copies of the Traveler article for which we are grateful. He was introduced by our headmaster, William M. Meacham.

Ernest Dalton of the Boston Globe sports department was with us. He has followed the fortunes of our football teams through the years and has given the boys a "pat on the back" many, many times in his schoolboy sports columns for which we thank him.

One other guest was on hand to help at the party. Last but not least, George M. Collins, former Olympic coach and presently Boston Globe writer, entertained with stories and concluded with a Scotch song in which the football players entered with gusto. Mr. Collins entertained at the School recently and the boys knew they could expect some fun from him and they were certainly not disappointed.

Samuel L. Whitehead, '23, our new president, introduced each of the football players and on behalf of the Alumni, presented each boy with a miniature gold football nicely engraved. This was a total surprise to the boys and immensely gratifying to them. The footballs were made by Jack Hobson, '27, head of a jewelry manufacturing concern in Attleboro, so the presentation was truly an F.T.S. event. The boys will wear these charms for a lifetime and they will ever

be a memento of the 1947 football season.

Captain Stephen J. Zevitas spoke for the boys and thanked the Alumni for their interest in the team. Then he presented Coach Raymond Thomas '26, with a little gold football as a gift from the team. Coach Thomas told of his activities on behalf of F.T.S. athletics and of his plans for the future.

Clifton E. Albee, secretary, spoke briefly and then read several congratulatory telegrams and letters received from graduates living, for the most part, in distant parts of the country. These were certainly both appreciated and very much enjoyed.

One of the happiest moments of the evening was when Weston O. Page, '38, presented to the school for the football equipment fund the sum of \$60.00. This had been donated mostly by players of recent years and it was deeply satisfying to the older graduates to note the interest taken by the younger members of our association. We may well add here that the fund has received an additional sum of \$80 from the Association. This is tangible evidence of the Association's interest in the athletic program of the school.

An article of this length might be presumed to cover all the details of the party. But this is not so. There were many of whom we should like to make special mention, and much behind the scenes activity which could be noted. Yet there is credit due so many that we might inadvertently make omissions. Suffice to say that it would be impossible to picture an F.T.S. gathering more satisfying, heartwarming and thrilling than the Football Victory Banquet.